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PATENT APPLICATION

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re the Application of

Tomohiko HATTORI

Group Art Unit: 3729

Application No.: 09/966,261

Examiner: R. Chang

Filed: October 1, 2001

Docket No.: 110739

For: METHOD OF DETECTING POSITION OF PRINTED-WIRING BOARD, AND
METHOD AND SYSTEM FOR EFFECTING WORKING OPERATION ON THE
BOARD, USING DETECTED BOARD POSITION

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION AND ELECTION OF SPECIES REQUIREMENT

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In reply to the May 20, 2004 Restriction and Election of Species Requirement,
Applicant provisionally elects Group I, claims 1-8 and Species 1, Figures 2-4, with traverse.
Claims 1-8 read on Figures 2-4. Further, claims 1-8 are generic to all of the species.

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of all claims 1-20 and species 1-2 is sufficiently related that a thorough search for the subject matter of any one Group of claims and species would encompass a search for the subject matter of the remaining claims and species. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the search and examination of the entire application could be made without serious burden. See MPEP §803 in which it is stated that "if the search and examination of an entire application can be made without serious burden, the examiner must examine it on the merits, even though it includes claims to independent or distinct inventions" (emphasis added). It is respectfully submitted that this policy should

apply in the present application in order to avoid unnecessary delay and expense to Applicant and duplicative examination by the Patent Office.

Applicant further traverses the election of species requirement on the ground that the generic claims are not so broad as to place an undue burden on the Patent Office to search and examine the full scope of the claims. Rather, Applicant respectfully asserts that search and examination of the entire application could be conducted without undue burden on the Examiner, thus avoiding delay and expense to Applicants.

Applicant further understands, however, that upon search, examination and allowance of the elected species, search and examination will continue as to the non-elected species within the scope of the generic claims.

Thus, withdrawal of the Restriction and Election of Species Requirement is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

Leana Levin

James A. Oliff
Registration No. 27,075

Leana Levin
Registration No. 51,939

JAO:LL/rav

Date: June 17, 2004

OLIFF & BERRIDGE, PLC
P.O. Box 19928
Alexandria, Virginia 22320
Telephone: (703) 836-6400

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